

July 2008 Edition
Eva Marie Wolfe,
Pastor

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**Wes Baker,
Editor**



CROTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Lifting Up Jesus for the Glory of God

75 North High Street

Croton, Ohio 43013

Praise Service 9 A.M. Sunday School 10 A.M. Morning Worship 11 A.M.

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On June 15, 10 youth and adults left our church to visit Heifer Ranch in Arkansas for a week of service and learning. Although we were only gone for six days, the experience will last a lifetime. I have always been impressed with Heifer International's philosophy of "Passing on the Gift"—giving an animal and appropriate training to a family in poverty, and requiring them to give to another family the first offspring of their animal. This practice creates a cycle of blessings that grows way beyond the original recipients. It lifts entire towns and villages from severe poverty to a self-sustaining lifestyle. That's enough to make Heifer one of my favorite organizations. But there is so much more....

Heifer Ranch grows experimental grasses to learn which ones are healthiest and most attractive to various farm animals. They then teach project partners (the families who receive the gifts) how to best graze their animals and to reduce dependence on grain as feed, leaving more grain available to alleviate human hunger. They practice rotational planting, and rotational grazing, to keep land healthy and productive. They teach composting to increase the amount of topsoil available for planting, and ways to use manure, both to improve soil and for biofuel. They teach how to use animal labor to its maximum potential—even using chickens to break up cow manure, saving time for humans to do other work!

We learned about community-supported agriculture, in which community cooperatives grow food locally for local use, yielding fresher and less expensive sources of vegetables and herbs. We learned about rates of resource production versus consumption for each continent, sustainable agriculture, standard of living versus quality of life, increasing family income by producing value-added products, appropriate technology, preservation of the environment, and so much more that I could probably fill this newsletter if I were to try to tell you everything. We made hand-dipped beeswax candles and goat's-milk soap. We made pizza with wheat we ground and herbs we picked. We made cow pies for use as fuel. We also worked on the 1200-acre ranch, supporting Heifer's mission by weeding and harvesting gardens, painting fence posts, moving animals, landscaping, gathering and cutting firewood, and much more. And I haven't even begun to tell you about the Global Village....

Organizations like Heifer International teach us many things about how to care for the earth that God has placed under our protection, and how to help people create better lives for themselves. This experience will continue to be a source of inspiration for the adults and youth who participated, and hopefully for you as well as we share our experience. The increased knowledge and spiritual growth will bless our congregation and our community as we apply what we have learned. Thank you all for your support of those who participated.

Shalom,
Pastor Em

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Worship in July

Those who attended our Annual Conference were blessed to hear from Bishop Rueben P. Job, a great spiritual leader and author of the new book, Three Simple Rules. Bishop Job reflected on the three rules John Wesley gave to his Methodist societies. He challenged us to take them up, teach them, and practice them until they become “our natural way of living.” We will explore these three rules this month—Do No Harm, Do Good, and Stay in Love With God.

July 6: Communion

Praise Service at 9 A.M.

Scripture: Mark 12:28-34

Message: Holy Living

Description: John Wesley developed three General Rules for people who joined the Methodist society. These practical applications of what it meant to follow Christ were taught in the Methodist class structure, and members were held accountable to follow them. We can breathe new life into our Christian walk by renewing our dedication to these three principles, which guide us in following the Great Commandment.

July 13

Praise Service at 9 A.M.

Scripture: Romans 13:9-14

Message: Do No Harm

Description: Bishop Job teaches that doing no harm is a radical action because it causes us to give up our position of “rightness.” Seeing each other with God’s eyes causes us to evaluate our thoughts and our actions to align them with God’s purposes rather than our own.

July 20

Praise Service at 9 A.M.

Scripture: Romans 12:9-20

Message: Do Good

Description: We are called not to let evil overcome us, but to overcome evil with good. In some ways we have an

instinctive sense of doing good, but how do we live it out when it becomes challenging to do so—when others are hurting us, or when circumstance makes it difficult to do good? Turning our lives over to Jesus is the key to doing good.

July 27

Praise Service at 9 A.M.

Scripture: 1 John 5:3-5, 18-21

Message: Stay in Love with God

Description: John Wesley taught what he called “the ordinances of God,” which we often call spiritual disciplines. Just as devoting time to our spouses or family members helps us to grow in our love for them, spiritual disciplines are ways that help us to stay in love with God.

Record of Faithfulness

Weekly Budget: \$1,565.00

Date	Attendance	Sun School	Tithes
May 25	64	30	\$1, 285.00
June 1	51	24	\$1, 934.00
June 8	39	22	\$1, 393.00
June 15	42	17	\$1, 197.00
June 22	56	28	\$1, 665.00
Special Offerings—Camp Fund			\$ 421.00



In June, we doubled our orders for Angel Food boxes with 70 total orders! Orders for July may be placed at the church on June 28 from 10 am – 12 pm. From July 1-July 14, orders may be placed on Wednesdays from 10 am – 12 pm and Thursdays from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Orders placed at the church must be paid for by cash, money order, cashier’s check, or EBT card (food stamps). If you place orders online on our church’s website or at www.angelfoodministries.com (choose

our church as the host site) you may pay by credit/debit card. All orders must be placed by Sunday, July 14. Orders can be picked up on Saturday, July 26 in the fellowship hall from 9 am – 11 pm.



Community News

The Northridge School Board has passed a resolution to participate in the Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC) Exceptional Needs Program to allow the state to set aside funds for one year for Northridge schools. The money from the state will not be allocated to the school unless voters pass a bond issue to generate the district’s share of the cost during that year. The next step for the district is to hire an architectural design firm to lead the district through the development of its master facilities plan and the bond issue process.

If you are interested in participating in a building committee to discuss the new elementary building, you may call the district office at 967-6631 and leave a message for school board member Bob Brooks.

The board will hold a special meeting on June 30 at 6:30 p.m. The agenda includes hiring of an architect and voting on the negotiated agreement with the teacher’s association. Its next regular business meeting will be held July 21 at 7 pm in the high school media center.



District and Conference News

Annual Conference. As of June 20, the West Ohio Conference has raised a total of \$530,394.75 for the “Love First” Miracle Offering, of which \$185,425.98 was given for Nothing But Nets (including \$80,000 from the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation

to match our conference’s winning bid for the basketball at General Conference) and \$344,968.77 for the United Methodist Churches in Cambodia and Vietnam. It was truly awesome to see this outpouring of love in action during the annual conference.

Annual Conference dealt with many other issues as well. We will be presenting information on annual conference and on the resolutions passed on a Sunday in July (which was not yet determined at print time for this newsletter). In the meantime, you are welcome to read the resolutions on our website, or discuss them with Charles or Pastor Em. We can also get you a print copy if you do not have Internet access.



On June 29, from 4-8 p.m., United Methodist Children’s Home will hold its 97th Anniversary

Celebration, a family event open to all members of the Central Ohio community. This celebration will recognize and celebrate the support that UMCH has received from its partners in ministry. The celebration will include festival games and prizes, door prizes, dunk tank and water catapults, food, live music, and entertainment. It will be held at UMCH at 1033 High Street, Worthington, OH 43085.

Defeat Gambling NOW! The United Methodist Church has historically been involved in the fight against legalized gambling. We are being called to help defeat the Constitutional Amendment on our November ballot to legalize gambling in Ohio. Backers of the amendment know they stand to gain millions while families and communities will suffer the economic consequences of readily available legalized gambling. Your help is critical as we

fight against a well funded campaign which seeks to deceive Ohio voters about the economic boon of gambling. If you are interested in being involved in the organized support against this amendment, please contact Pastor Em, or Dee Stickley-Miner in the conference office at dstickley@wocumc.org.

Midwest Flooding. Many people in Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana have been affected by the recent flooding. We will be collecting a special offering to be sent to the United Methodist Advance for Midwest Flooding Relief. Please also continue to keep the flood victims and their families in your prayers.



We hope you were there to see the presentation on the mission trip to Heifer Ranch on June 29. If not, please ask the youth and adults who attended about what they did and what they learned. It was definitely worth the price of chiggers and poison ivy!

Youth Events July and August



Sunday, July 27 – 3-5 pm – An All-Church event - Olympic Challenge.

Saturday, Aug 30 – 5 pm-'til church on Sunday - overnight camp-out at the Stansbury's Home.

Son Catchers.

We will be joining the FTC (Youth Group) in our summer activities:

June 29th, 1 p.m. — Pool Party at the Johnstown Pool. Meet at the church at 12:45 p.m. to car pool. Lunch will be provided.

July 27th, 3–5 p.m. All Church Olympic

Challenge.

August 30th, 5 p.m. through the church service on the 31st. Overnight Camp-Out at the Stansbury Home.

Mark your calenders now so you don't miss the fun!

Hartford Fair

The 150th Hartford Fair will run from August 2nd to the 9th. We will again be operating our church's drink booth during the Fair. This is one of our largest fund raisers, and we need everyone to help. Sign up sheets will be posted for booth workers and people to sell drinks in the grandstand. Please give generously of your time. If you have any questions, call John Palmer at 967-8363 or Judy Baker at 893-3149.

Ice Cream Social

Hot summer days are perfect times for Ice Cream Socials. Our Social is scheduled for Saturday, July 12th, from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. We will serve lots of good food and, of course, delicious ice cream. All donations will help support our many outreach projects.

Summer Songburst – Early Worship Opportunity

Spice up your summer worship experience by participating in the Summer Songburst Series. Each Sunday morning in July and August, from 9 to 9:30 a.m., we will celebrate God's presence through song, scripture, audio-visuals and prayer. A time of informal fellowship and refreshments will follow each service. We will continue our 10 a.m. Sunday School and 11 a.m. Worship during these months. Try something new...you won't be disappointed!

Special Music at Ice Cream Social

Our annual Ice Cream Social is now scheduled for July 12th, 4:30 to 7 P.M. Mr. Gabriel Cabanillas, an accomplished vocalist, will be present to perform for us from 5 to 6 P.M.



To my Church Family

I want to say Many Thanks to all. For calls, prayers, cards and other helps, I would not have made it through the past few months. And to others in our communities, thanks! —Mildred Ross

A Lighter Moment...

Get Close to Nature



Think about this... (A meditation by Max Ludado)

When my daughter Jenna was six-years-old, I came upon her standing in front of a full-length mirror. She was looking down her

throat. I asked her what she was doing and she answered, "I'm looking to see if God is in my heart."

I chuckled and turned and then overheard her asking Him, "Are you in there?" When no answer came, she grew impatient and spoke on his behalf. With a voice deepened as much as a six-year-old can, she said, "Yes."

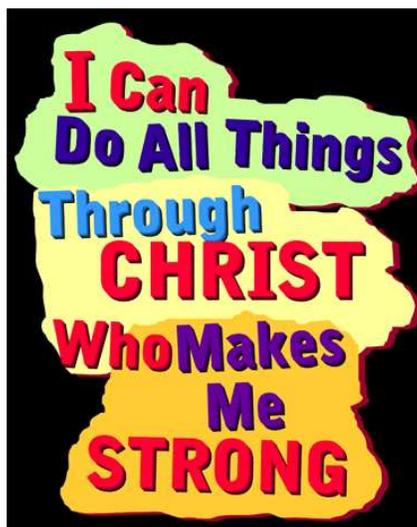
She's asking the right question, "Are you in there?" Could it be what they say is true? It wasn't enough for you to appear in a bush or dwell in a temple? It wasn't enough for you to become human flesh and walk on the earth? It wasn't enough to leave your word and the promise of your return? You had to go further? You had to take up residence in us?

"Do you not know," Paul penned, "that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit?" (I Cor. 6:19)

Perhaps you didn't. Perhaps you didn't know God would go so far to make sure you got home. If not, thanks for letting me remind you. The wizard (of Oz) says look inside yourself and find self. God says look inside yourself and find God. The first will get you to Kansas. The latter will get you to heaven.

Take your pick.

—Submitted by Wes Baker





Food for the body!

**An Evening with Michael Padula
Saturday, July 26th from 5 to 8 P.M.,
we will share an evening of food and
music with our former pastor and good
friend, Michael Padula. Invite your
family and friends and join us for an
evening of fellowship and inspiration.**



Food for the soul!